



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Recreation Commission Minutes 11/13/2007**

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg, Jim Robillard and Nancy Campbell. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Will Hughes and Claudia Hughes.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of October 9, 2007. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion was approved 4-0-1.

Mr. Connelly announced that the International School of Boston representative was not able to make the meeting and requested that their item be placed on a future agenda. The Committee agreed and asked Mr. Connelly to place the item on the next agenda.

### **Eagle Scout Project Request**

Mr. Will Hughes introduced his request to build bat houses at Menotomy Rocks Park and Thorndike Field. Mr. Hughes reviewed the benefits of bat houses and their effect on the mosquito population. Ms. Mayer suggested the Reservoir as an alternative/addition to Thorndike. Mr. Connelly will work with the Friends of Menotomy to find suitable locations. Mr. Hughes indicated his project must be completed by May.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the Eagle Project with the condition that Mr. Hughes work with Mr. Connelly on the proper locations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

### **Draft Policy Review**

Bench Dedication Policy – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed the policy for Mr. Robillard. The Committee discussed the draft policy. The Commission members agreed to list the areas in town they feel would benefit from the bench dedication program. Ms. Mayer asked that the list and program then be shared with the field user groups and Friends of Park groups.

Wedding Photography Policy – Mr. Connelly reviewed the draft policy. Ms. Rothenberg asked that legal holidays be omitted. The Commission suggested that no catering be added and no food be deleted. Ms. Mayer suggested that music be allowed but amplified music not be allowed. Mr. Connelly stated that he would draft a formal application.

Film Production Policy – Ms. Rothenberg reviewed the draft policy. Ms. Mayer asked that “is required” substitute “may be required”. The Committee discussed the merits of including a fee in the application. Ms. Rothenberg indicated that the industry standard is to negotiate the fee. The Commission discussed a need for requiring adequate notice. The Commission decided not to include a minimum notice requirement.

Mr. Connelly will amend the policies for approval at the December meeting

### **Recreation Update**

Mr. Connelly stated that the Fall programs are doing very well and have eclipsed last year’s financial mark. Mr. Connelly stated that although the gymnastics program numbers are down the other programs are up significantly.

### **Rink Update**

Mr. Connelly gave a brief review of the rink year and shared the celebrity hockey game fundraising idea with the Commission. Ms. Mayer reviewed the meeting information with the Ed Burns Rink Committee. The Commission discussed the Summer Street site and the need for additional ice options. Mr. Connelly stated that he would continue to work with the Ed Burns Committee and bring future information back the Commission.

### **Special Events**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from Patrick Sueltenfuss for use of Summer Street or Spy Pond Field for an adult baseball team in the Yawkey League. Mr. Connelly stated that the original request was for 20 games but the league would accept any dates available. Mr. Robillard stated that Babe Ruth did use the field almost daily throughout the spring but the field does open up in August. Mr. Connelly stated that he would be in support of the request as long as every Arlington organization received the field dates needed and only remaining dates were offered. Mr. Robillard agreed and would work with Mr. Connelly. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the request for fields based on the field availability as determined by Mr. Connelly. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

### **Capital Improvement Update**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the capital projects.

#### **Menotomy:**

Menotomy Rocks Park Renovation is just about completed with the exception of the front gate, post cap and rain sensor.

#### **Buzzell:**

Buzzell project is moving forward with the cooperative effort of a revised plan from a Licensed Site Professional and town staff. Mr. Connelly reviewed the current plan and stated that the intent was to have the cap work completed this construction season with the field renovation work getting underway this spring. Mr. Connelly stated that a reserve fund transfer and the various remaining balances of existing capital account would be necessary for funding the site testing and capping.

#### **Bishop/Bishop Playground:**

The Bishop Field project is complete.

The playground community build is progressing nicely with the Community Build on schedule for the weekend of November 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Connelly stated the Department of Public Works has been a tremendous help during the entire process.

Wellington:

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer stated that the project was completed and that school and town staff was currently looking at the new state permitting procedure for adventure courses and climbing walls. Ms. Mayer suggested that the Commissioners tour the completed site. Mr. Connelly indicated that he was looking at trying to have a battery powered motion sensor installed for night security.

Pheasant:

Mr. Connelly stated that he had met with Principal Brown and the students and has passed the information on to Andrew Leonard. Mr. Connell stated that a preliminary plan should be available for the December Meeting.

Thorndike Parking:

Mr. Connelly is in the process of obtaining an abutters list for the initial public hearing.

**Committee Updates**

Open Space – Ms. Mayer stated that the Committee is planning their action items and will be doing a land trust inventory. Ms. Mayer stated that there is support for revitalizing the Mill Brook Linear Park concept.

Green Dog – Ms Mayer reviewed the results of the first two meetings.

Friends of Parks - Ms. Rothenberg updated the Commission on the latest meeting and discussed the steps for moving forward with the brochure printing.

Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation